CINN ENQUIRER

Big Crime Killing JFK Probe—Gonzalez

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP)—Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez says the assassination of John F. Kennedy will never be investigated in a meaningful way "because vast and powerful forces, including the country's most sophisticated crime element, won't stand for it."

"This criminal element is all-pervasive, loaded with nothing but money and in many ways more potent than the government itself," said Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat who submitted his resignation last week as chairman of the U.S. House Assassination Committee.

In an interview published Sunday in the *San Antonio Express-News*, Gonzalez said other forces against the investigation include "the Kennedy family and heavy business interests in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who don't want all the old JFK muck raked up."

HE CRITICIZED the committee's chief counsel, Richard Sprague, as an "unconscionable scoundrel" and added:

"Sprague tried to spend committee money on long-distance phone calls to his Philadelphia law firm and to the home of his girl friend there. And get this. He actually took a little Acapulco vacation for himself while on the committee payroll."

Sprague was not immediately available for comment.

Gonzalez predicted the committee will forget about the Kennedy assassination now and go into "a weak, one-legged investigation of the Martin Luther King assassination as a sop to blacks."

GONZALEZ RESIGNED as committee chairman after a showdown with Sprague during which Gonzalez tried to fire Sprague, but fellow committee members supported the former Pennsylvania prosecutor.

His resignation has not yet been formally accepted.

Without being specific, Gonzalez said that "powerful forces, including criminal elements" had deliberatly put Sprague and himself into the committee picture on an automatic collision course.

"They never did want the Kennedy assassinationconspiracy unmasked," said Gonzalez. "They knew I was an honest, direct man who wouldn't hold still for a transparent phony like Sprague. They were so right. The JFK investigation is over."